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Kuo

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(54) **GROUNDED AND STIFFENED ELECTRICAL CARD CONNECTOR**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **439/101**; 439/541.5
(58) **Field of Search** 439/541.5, 64, 439/101, 108

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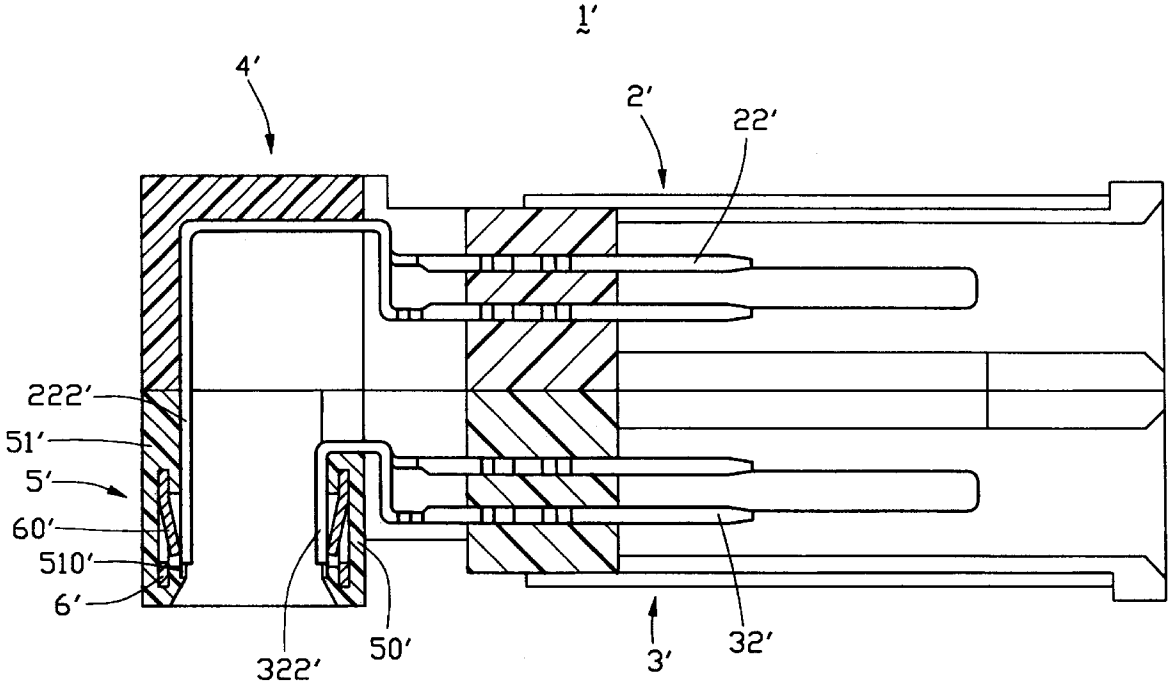
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An electrical card connector includes an upper insulative housing **(20)**, a number of upper electrical terminals **(22)**, an upper dielectric transitional element **(4)**, a lower insulative housing **(30)** stacked below the upper insulative housing, a number of lower electrical terminals **(32)** and a lower dielectric transitional element **(5)**. The upper electrical terminals are partially retained by the upper insulative housing and are partially received in the upper and lower dielectric transitional elements. The lower electrical terminals are partially received in the lower dielectric transitional element. A pair of elongated plates **(6)** are embedded in the lower dielectric transitional element.

1 Claim, 4 Drawing Sheets



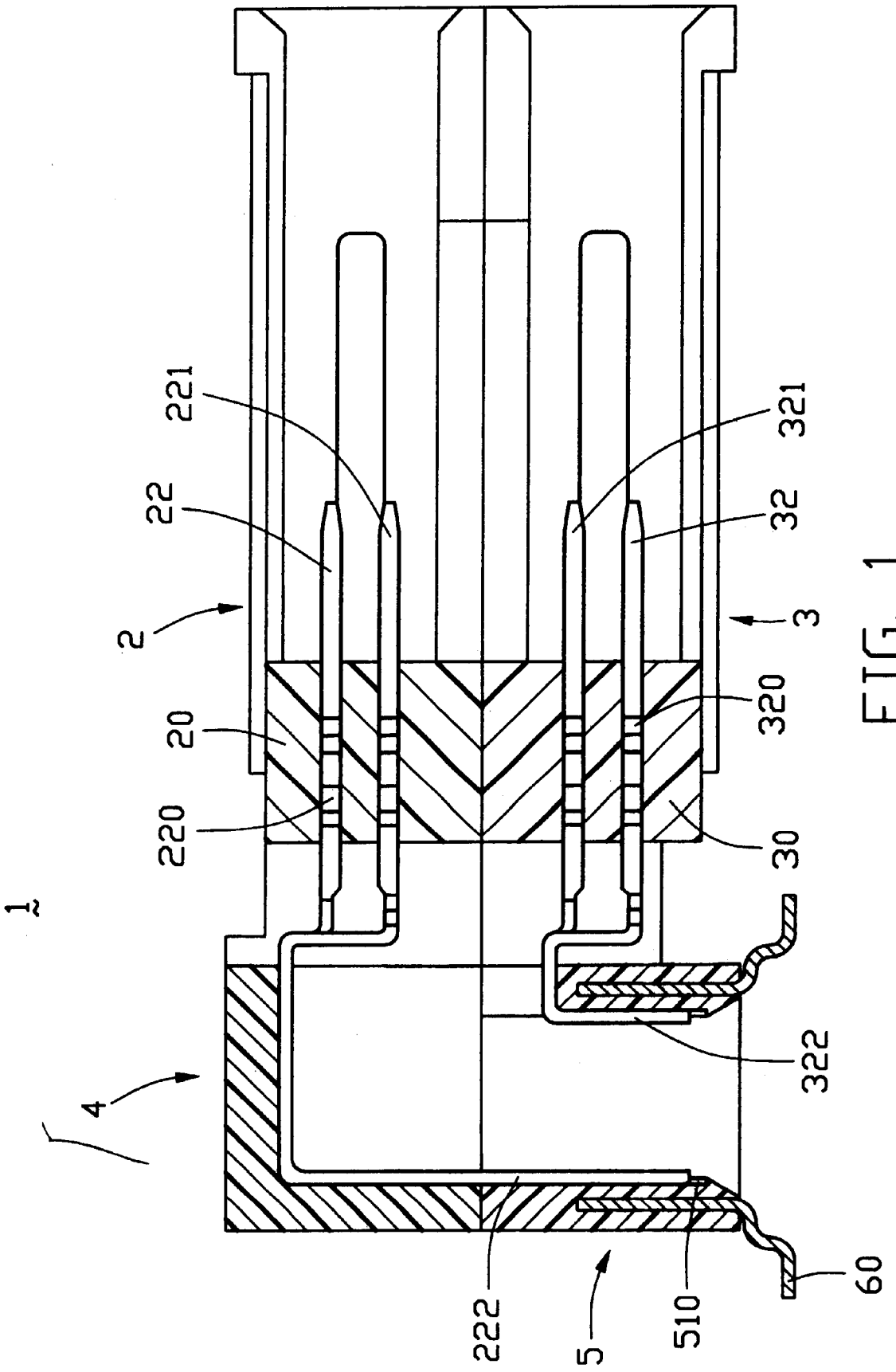


FIG. 1

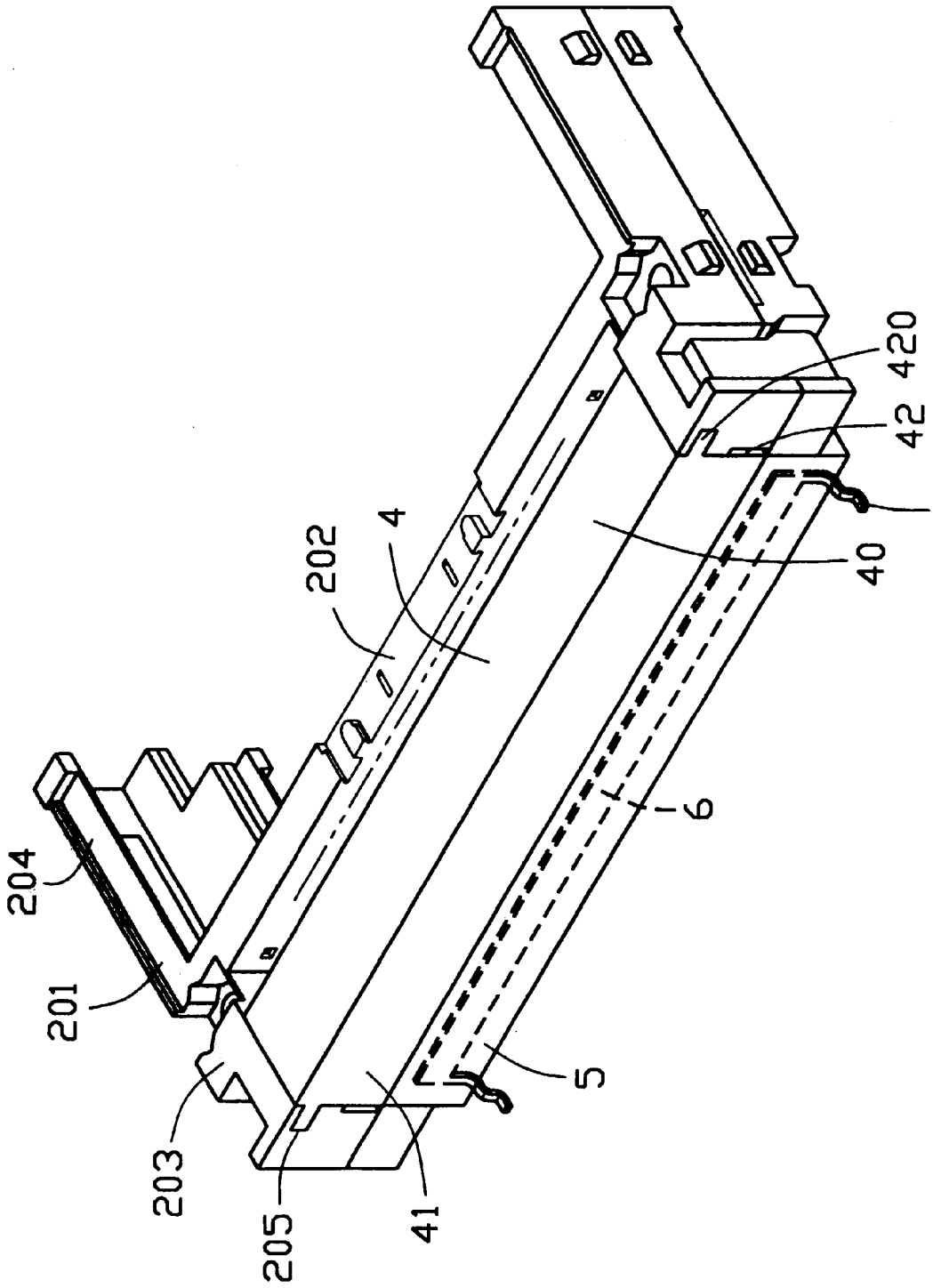


FIG. 2

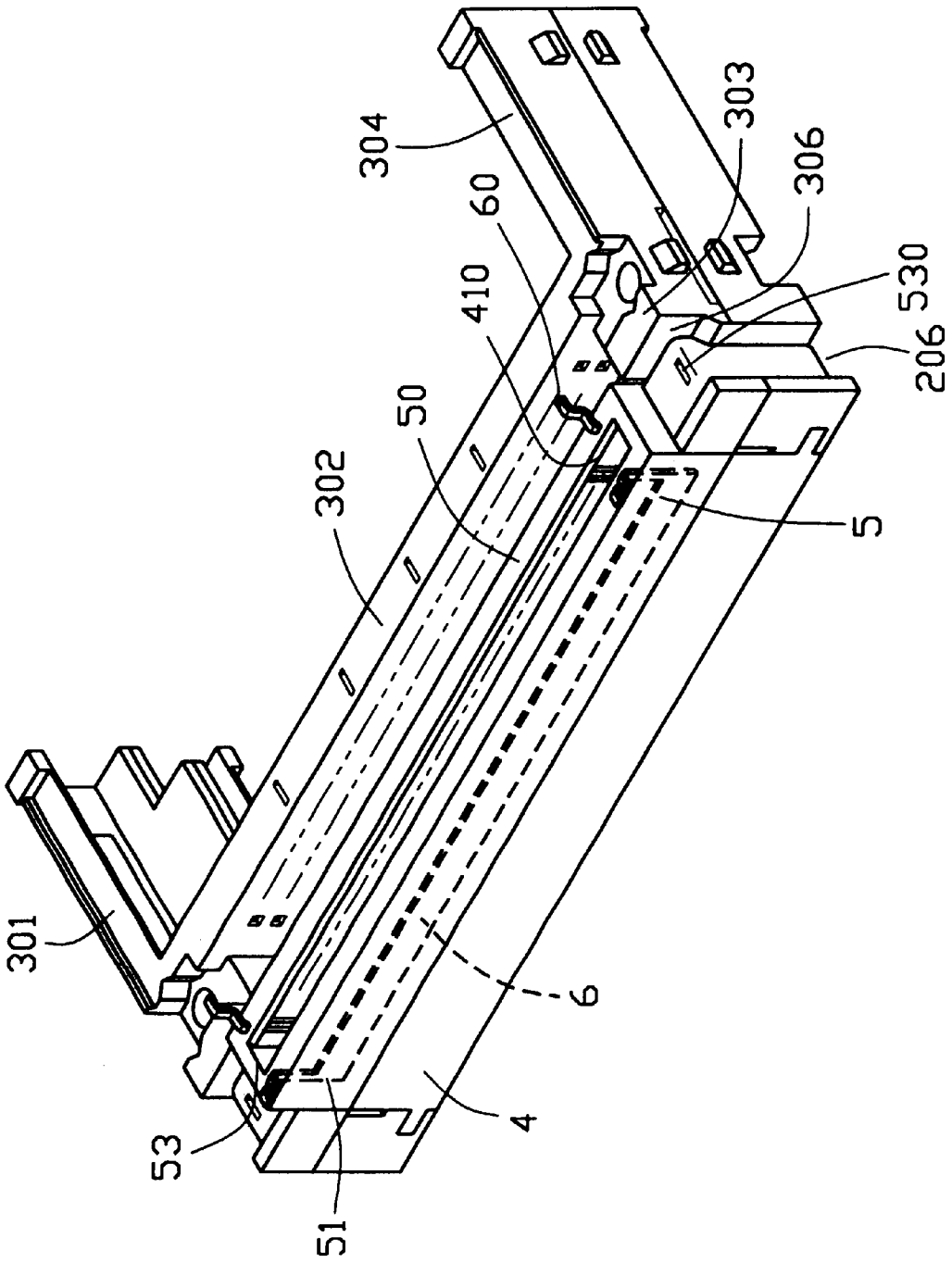


FIG. 3

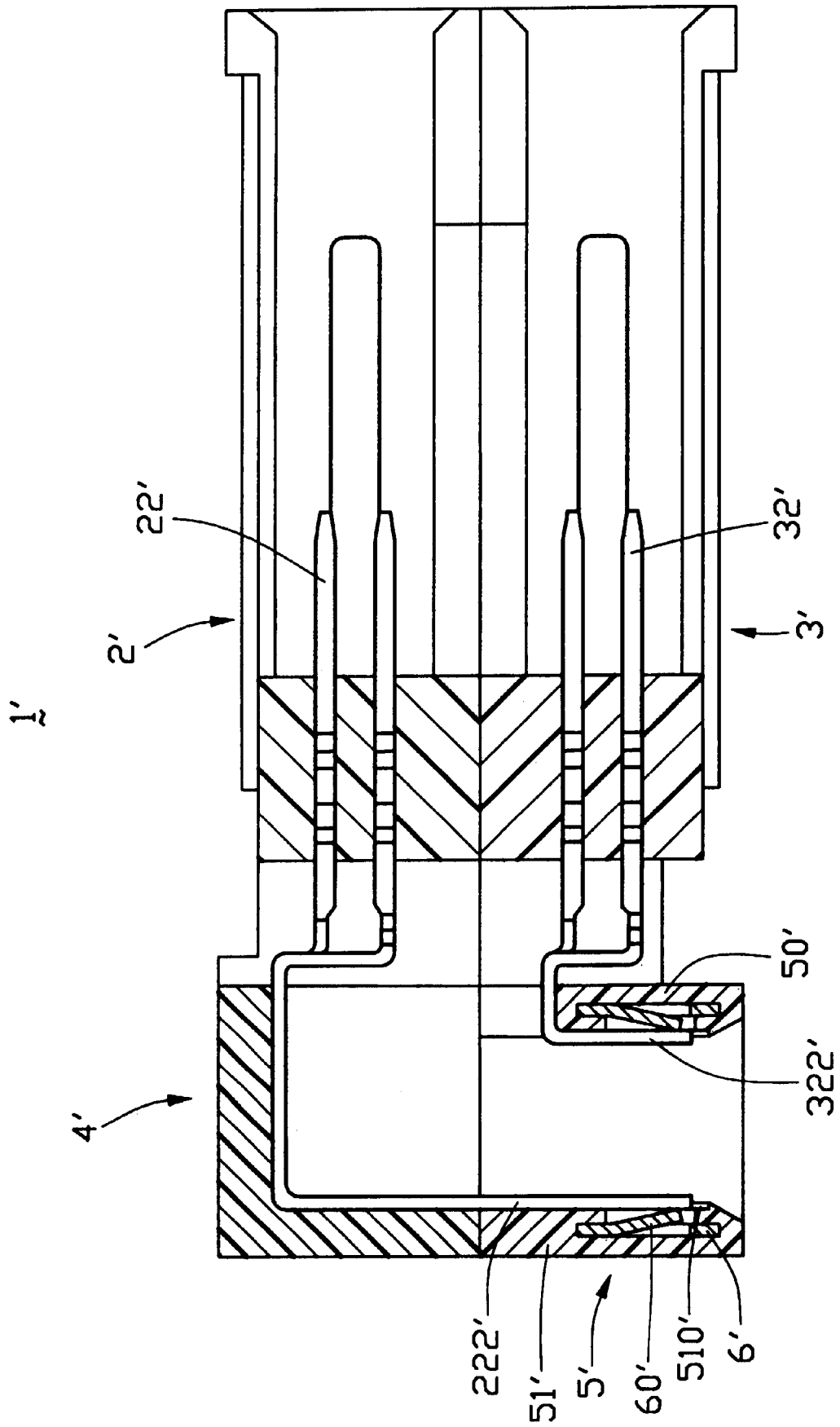


FIG. 4

GROUNDED AND STIFFENED ELECTRICAL CARD CONNECTOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an electrical connector, and particularly to an electrical card connector which is indirectly electrically connected with a printed circuit board.

2. Description of the Related Art

Electrical card connectors are mounted on printed circuit boards to electrically connect electronic cards received therein with the printed circuit boards.

Means by which the electrical card connectors are electrically connected with the printed circuit boards are divided into two categories, i.e., directly connecting and indirectly connecting. Directly connecting relates to that electrical terminals of the electrical card connector are directly engaged with contacting pads on the printed circuit board while indirectly connecting means that electrical terminals of the electrical card connector are electrically engaged with electrical terminals of a transitional electrical connector which is in turn electrically connected with the printed circuit board.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,636,999 discloses an electrical card connector which is indirectly connected with a printed circuit board and comprises a transitional element accommodating transitional portions of electrical terminals of the electrical card connector in inner faces of opposite side walls thereof. A transitional electrical connector mounted on the printed circuit board is partially received in the transitional element of the electrical card connector thereby electrical terminals protruding from outer faces of opposite side walls of the transitional electrical connector are then electrically engaged with the transitional portions of the electrical terminals of the electrical card connector. The side walls of the transitional element of the electrical card connector will be plastic deformed after long-term insertion and/or ejection of the transitional electrical connector. Furthermore, pitches between every two adjacent electrical terminals of the electrical card connector is relatively small due to the high density thereof, therefore, the electrical terminals will be subject to cross talk of one another when the signal transmission speed between the two connectors increases to comply with the present developing trend toward faster signal transmission in the electronic field.

The plastic deformation of the transitional element of the electrical card connector and the cross talk between the electrical terminals of the electrical card connector deteriorate the signal transmission quality between the electrical card connector and the transitional electrical connector.

Therefore, an improved electrical card connector is desired to overcome the disadvantages of the prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A first object of the present invention is to provide an electrical card connector which is effectively shielded from the cross talk between electrical terminals thereof; and

A second object of the present invention is to provide an electrical card connector comprising a transitional element, which is mechanically stiffened to eliminate the plastic deformation thereof.

An electrical card connector in accordance with the present invention comprises an insulative housing, a plurality of electrical terminals retained in the insulative housing, a dielectric transitional element and an elongated metal plate embedded in the dielectric transitional element. The electrical terminals protrude beyond a forward side of the insulative housing to electrically engage with electrical terminals of a complementary electrical connector at an engaging portion thereof. The dielectric transitional element is assembled with the insulative housing and receives in inner faces of two opposite walls thereof a transitional portion of each electrical terminal protruding beyond a rearward side of the insulative housing.

Other objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the present embodiment when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a cross-sectional view of an electrical card connector in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the electrical card connector of FIG. **1**, wherein electrical terminals of the electrical card connector are not shown;

FIG. **3** is an inverted view of FIG. **2**; and

FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view of an electrical card connector in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to FIGS. **1** to **3**, an electrical card connector **1** in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention comprises an upper electrical card connector **2**, a lower electrical card connector **3** stacked below the upper electrical card connector **2** and a pair of elongated plates **6**.

The upper and lower electrical card connectors **2**, **3** respectively comprise upper and lower insulative housings **20**, **30**, upper and lower electrical terminals **22**, **32** and upper and lower dielectric transitional elements **4**, **5**.

The upper and lower insulative housings **20**, **30** are similar in shape to each other and each comprises a pair of parallel arms **201**, **301** and a header **202**, **302** extending therebetween. Each arm **201**, **301** of the upper and lower insulative housings **20**, **30** comprises a mounting portion **203**, **303** extending rearwardly beyond the header **202**, **302** and a guiding portion **204**, **304** extending forwardly beyond the header **202**, **302**. The mounting portions **203** of the arms **201** of the upper insulative housing **20** define a pair of opposing cutouts **205** extending along a direction along which the arms **201** extend in opposing inner faces thereof. Each mounting portion **203**, **303** of the arms **201**, **301** defines a retaining channel **206**, **306** opened outwardly and communicating with each other.

The upper and lower electrical terminals **22**, **32** each comprises a fixing portion **220**, **320**, an engaging portion **221**, **321** and a transitional portion **222**, **322**. The fixing portions **220**, **320** and the engaging portions **221**, **321** all extend horizontally. The transitional portions **222**, **322** extend firstly horizontally from the fixing portions **220**, **320** and opposite to the engaging portions **221**, **321**, then vertically to be perpendicular to the fixing and engaging portions **220**, **320**, **221**, **321**, then horizontally again to be parallel to the fixing and engaging portions **220**, **320**, **221**, **321**, and lastly vertically again to be perpendicular to the fixing and engaging portions **220**, **320**, **221**, **321**. As known to all skilled in the pertinent art, some of the upper and lower electrical terminals **22**, **32** are designated for grounding function and are thus called grounding terminals.

The upper dielectric transitional element **4** comprises a longitudinal upper top wall **40**, a longitudinal upper rear wall **41** depending downwardly from a rear edge of the upper top wall **40** and a pair of opposite upper end walls **42**. The upper end walls **42** connect the upper top and rear walls **40, 41** at top and rear edges thereof. A pair of ribs **420** protrude from outer faces of the opposite upper end walls **42** adjacent to the top edges thereof. The upper top and rear walls **40, 41** each defines a plurality of upper terminal passageways (not shown). Each upper terminal passageway of the upper top wall **40** communicates with a corresponding upper terminal passageway of the upper rear wall **41**. A number of the upper terminal passageways of the upper top wall **40** is equal to that of the upper terminal passageways of the upper rear wall **41** and is equal to that of the upper electrical terminals **22**.

The lower dielectric transitional element **5** comprises longitudinal opposite lower front and lower rear walls **50, 51** and opposite lower end walls **53** connecting the opposite lower front and lower rear walls **50, 51**. A pair of L-shaped latches **530** extend from outer faces of the opposite lower end walls **53** and each has a free end spaced from and extending parallel to the lower end walls **53**. The lower front and rear walls **50, 51** each defines a plurality of lower terminal passageways **510** in an inner face thereof. A number of the lower terminal passageways **510** of the lower rear wall **51** is equal to that of the lower terminal passageways **510** of the lower front wall **50** and is equal to that of the upper terminal passageways of the upper top wall **40** of the upper dielectric transitional element **4**.

Each of the elongated plates **6** is made of conductive metal. Each elongated metal plate **6** forms a pair of feet **60** extending downwardly at opposite ends thereof.

In assembly, the fixing portions **220, 320** of the upper and lower electrical terminals **22, 32** are retained in the headers **202, 302** of the upper and lower insulative housings **20, 30**. The engaging portions **221, 321** of the upper and lower electrical terminals **22, 32** extend forwardly beyond the headers **202, 302** and between the guiding portions **204, 304** of the arms **201, 301**. The transitional portions **222, 322** extend rearwardly beyond the headers **202, 302** and between the mounting portions **203, 303**.

The ribs **420** of the upper dielectric transitional element **4** are received in the cutouts **205** of the mounting portions **203** of the arms **201** of the upper insulative housing **20** to assemble the upper dielectric transitional element **4** to the mounting portions **203** of the upper insulative housing **20**. The transitional portions **222** of the upper electrical terminals **22** extend through and are retained by the upper terminal passageways of the upper top and rear walls **40, 41** of the upper dielectric transitional element **4**.

The latches **530** of the lower dielectric transitional element **5** extend from the channels **306** of the lower insulative housing **30** into the channels **206** of the upper insulative housing **20** and are retained in the channels **206, 306**. The transitional portions **222** of the upper electrical terminals **22** further extend into the lower terminal passageways **510** of the lower rear wall **51** of the lower dielectric transitional element **5** and the transitional portions **322** of the lower electrical terminals **32** are received in the lower terminal passageways **510** of the lower front wall **50** of the lower dielectric transitional element **5**, respectively. The pair of elongated metal plates **6** are embedded in the lower front and rear walls **50, 51** of the lower dielectric element **5** with the feet **60** thereof extending beyond the lower front and rear walls **50, 51** to be contacted with grounding pads on a printed circuit board (not shown) when the electrical card connector **1** is mounted to the printed circuit board.

Referring to FIG. **4**, an electrical card connector **1'** in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention is similar to the electrical card connector **1** of the first embodiment, so like reference numerals are applied to like components hereafter. The elongated metal plates **6'** embedded in the lower front and rear walls **50', 51'** of the lower dielectric transitional element **5'** each comprise a plurality of tabs **60'** protruding into lower terminal passageways **510'** and electrically contacting with transitional portions **222', 322'** of selected upper and lower grounding terminals **22', 32'**.

The elongated metal plates **6, 6'** provide grounding functions to the electrical card connectors **1, 1'** and complementary transitional electrical connectors (not shown) which comprises electrical terminals electrically connecting with the transitional portions **222, 222', 322, 322'** of the upper and lower electrical terminals **22, 22', 32, 32'**. Further, since the elongated plates **6, 6'** are made of metal and are embedded in the lower front and rear walls **50, 50', 51, 51'**, the walls **50, 50', 51, 51'** are mechanically stiffened by the elongated metal plates **6, 6'**.

The electrical card connector **1, 1'** may also have only one insulative housing and one dielectric transitional element receiving electrical terminals thereof extending beyond the insulative housing and partially embedding an elongated metal plate therein.

It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only, and changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical card connector comprising:

a first insulative housing comprising a pair of parallel arms and a header extending therebetween;

a first dielectric transitional element comprising a first top wall and a first rear wall;

a plurality of first electrical terminals each comprising a fixing portion retained in the header of the first insulative housing, an engaging portion extending forwardly beyond the header of the first insulative housing and a transitional portion extending rearwardly beyond the header of the first insulative housing and through the first top and rear walls;

a second insulative housing comprising a pair of parallel arms and a header extending therebetween;

a second dielectric transitional element comprising a second front wall and a second rear wall receiving the transitional portions of the first electrical terminals;

a plurality of second electrical terminals each comprising a fixing portion retained in the header of the second insulative housing, an engaging portion and a transitional portion partially received in the second front wall of the second dielectric transitional element; and

a pair of elongated plates are partially embedded in the second front and rear walls of the second dielectric transitional element, respectively;

wherein the elongated plates are made of metal and each has a pair of feet extending from opposite ends thereof beyond the second front and rear walls of the second dielectric transitional element, respectively;

wherein the elongated plates each have a plurality of tabs electrically contacting with selected ones of the first and second electrical terminals for grounding;

wherein each arm of the first and second insulative housings comprises a mounting portion extending rearwardly beyond the corresponding header and a guiding portion extending forwardly beyond the corresponding header, the engaging portions of the first and second electrical terminals extending between the guiding portions of the arms and the transitional portions of the first and second electrical terminals extending between the mounting portions of the arms;

wherein the first dielectric transitional element comprises the first top wall, the first rear wall and a pair of first end walls, the first end walls each having a rib thereon and the mounting portions of the arms of the first insulative housing defining a pair of cutouts receiving the ribs;

wherein the second dielectric transitional element comprises the second front and rear walls and a pair of second end walls, the mounting portions of the arms of the first and second insulative housing each defining a channel therein and the second end walls each having a latch extending from the channels of the second insulative housing into the channels of the first insulative housing and being retained in the channels.

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